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What nutrients do biosolids contain?

Biosolids contain the three primary crop nutrients -- Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium. Biosolids contain several other nutrients that crops need in smaller amounts, such as Calcium, Magnesium, Sulfur, Zinc, Copper, and Iron. Most commercial fertilizers do not contain these necessary micronutrients.

What is the economic value of biosolids?

Besides improving the soil, land-applying biosolids can supplement or replace commercial fertilizer. Using current fertilizer costs, biosolids can provide nutrients worth up to \$100 per acre.

Biosolids Nutrient Value

Based on 4-8 dry tons/acre
Biosolids application (per acre)

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>lbs. applied</u>	<u>Value</u>
Nitrogen	150	\$52.00
Phosphorus	150	54.00
Potassium	30	4.00
Copper	3	3.60
Zinc	5	2.50
Calcium*	1200	<u>48.00</u>
Total Value		\$164.10

*For biosolids containing lime

Next issue: Michigan Biosolids Programs